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With Sunday Morning Edition.

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A—8 THURSDAY, February 1, 1945

White House Intervention

Public hearings before a subcommittee of the House Interstate Commerce Committee on the Potomac bridge controversy have been called off temporarily because the President wants to discuss the matter with the Commissioners. In the press of other business, he has not yet had an opportunity to do so. No harm need result from a delay. But the implications of the postponement should be understood.

The controversy is whether to replace the present Highway Bridge by one six-lane bridge or by two four-lane bridges.

The District Commissioners, the Public Roads Administration, the Federal Works Agency and the Commission of Fine Arts are in favor of two bridges. The Washington Board of Trade and the Federation of Citizens' Associations, adopting reports which reflected extraordinarily careful examination of the pros and the cons, favor two bridges.

Secretary of Interior Ickes and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission want one bridge.

While it is not the purpose here to argue the merits of either plan, the two-bridge plan seems the more logical and musters in its support far more persuasive evidence, from more qualified sources, than the one-bridge plan.

Involving, as it does, the opinion of experts, the results of traffic studies and other such considerations, the controversy should be threshed out in public hearings with opportunity for free exchange of opinion and presentation of evidence on both sides. It would be as wrong, from the public standpoint, for the President to ask the Park and Planning Commission and Mr. Ickes to recede from their point of view as it would be if he asked the Commissioners to recede from their's. While it may be desirable that he familiarize himself with the nature of the dispute, its settlement should be left to Congress.

Secretary Ickes and the Park and Planning Commission have easy access to White House influence in such matters, but this bridge matter is not one to be settled by influence, likes or dislikes. It calls for factual evidence and a decision based on public convenience.

Stilwell on Japan

Probably no one knows the Japanese fighting man better than General Joseph Stilwell. He was on the "receiving end" in the Burmese disaster three years ago; took "a hell of a beating," as he candidly confessed, but escaped by an extraordinary jungle march over the border to India, where he trained a Chinese army and built the road back which Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek has just honored with his name.

Out of the wealth of his personal experience, General Stilwell gave a press interview last Monday at the Pentagon Building, where he is installed as Commanding General of Army Ground Forces in this country. So his views on the present situation and future prospects of the war against Japan, expressed with characteristic frankness, are well worth noting and pondering.

Like most other Army and Navy spokesmen, General Stilwell believes that the war will be a long one, with the Japanese fighting doggedly on even after Germany's collapse, the last stages of the struggle probably being fought on the Chinese mainland even though Japan itself had been virtually knocked out. Emphasizing Japanese ability to drag out the conflict, he stressed their resources in manpower which enables them to put at least 4,000,000 men in the field, backed by the fecundity of a population whose net excess of births over deaths averages 1,000,000 per year. With 500,000 males coming of fighting age annually, that makes "about 10,000 Japs we will have to kill each week to keep the population stationary."

This naturally raises the question as to where the manpower is coming from on our side to do so big a job. Despite current Japanese gains in Central and Southern China, where they have not yet been stopped, the general called attention to Chiang's recent statement that China must be prepared to provide the bulk of the manpower for the showdown on the continent. From personal experience, Stilwell has a high regard for the ability of the Chinese soldier when given adequate training and equipment. And the crying lack of the Chinese Army should be progressively remedied by the routes newly opened or prospective after the recovery of Burma, which he considers likely during the present dry season.

In the long run, General Stilwell is thus optimistic. But he points out the magnitude of the task, the time needed to do it, and the sustained immensity of the effort required.

Confusing the Issue

As the Senate begins its consideration of the nomination of Henry A. Wallace to be Secretary of Commerce it is of first importance that the real issue be set forth clearly.

That issue has been subject to considerable confusion. Mr. Wallace comes before the Senate as the advocate of what has been called an economic bill of rights. His program calls for jobs for all who are willing to work, higher pay, shorter hours, lower taxes, better health facilities, better schools, etc. To accomplish this, he would have the Government, using public funds, serve as a sort of pinchhitter for private industry.

No rational person is going to quarrel with those objectives. Yet the evidence indicates a deliberate attempt by Mr. Wallace's supporters, and even by Mr. Wallace himself, to make it appear that those who are opposed to him are also hostile to his objectives. For instance, Mr. Wallace said at his recent testimonial dinner: "Those who voted against me in the (Senate Commerce) committee either believe in policies which will make 60,000,000 jobs impossible or wish to destroy all possibility of a progressive Democratic party as a national force. * * * They are fighting against sound principles upon which America can survive as a great and prosperous Nation." In his own appearance before the Commerce Committee, he said: "The real issue is whether the powers of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and its giant subsidiaries are to be used only to help big business or whether these powers are also to be used to help little business and to help carry out the President's commitment of 60,000,000 jobs. * * * If the Congress does not feel that the powers of the RFC should be exercised in such a way as to further the objectives which I have set forth, then I respectfully urge the Congress to take the RFC from under the control of the Commerce Department. For I can tell you here and now that if the RFC is left in the Commerce Department I will use its powers in the interests of all the American people."

That plainly is the equivalent of saying that those who are opposed to Mr. Wallace are opposed to his objectives and want to serve big business at the expense of the country as a whole. No doubt Mr. Wallace is sincere, but however earnest he may be, he is pursuing a reckless, even an irresponsible, course which he must know is calculated to divide the American people into hostile camps.

This is a fact which serves to emphasize the point that the real issue before the Senate is Mr. Wallace himself. The question is not whether his objectives are good, but whether he has the qualifications for the critically important position to which he aspires, and it is to be hoped that the Senate debate will make this clear beyond any possibility of doubt.

War Crimes Problem

The circumstances surrounding the end of Herbert C. Pell's service as American representative on the United Nations War Crimes Commission are disturbing, even though Acting Secretary of State Grew has just spoken reassuring words on the subject. Mr. Pell is convincing when he says that it is "nonsense" to ascribe his failure to return to London to the fact that Congress did not appropriate money to cover his work there; the real reason, he declares, is that certain American officials—presumably in the State Department—do not want to punish Nazi criminals as thoroughly as he advocates.

Mr. Pell's thesis is that the United Nations should try Germans not merely for the crimes they have committed against the nationals of other countries but also for crimes committed against the nationals of Germany itself, chiefly the Jewish minority. It is on the latter point, apparently, that there has been disagreement, some officials believing that what a nation does to its own citizens is its own business. That a similar disagreement exists in Britain is indicated by the fact that Sir Cecil Hurst recently resigned from the commission when the British Foreign Office failed to go along with the ideas shared by himself and Mr. Pell.

If Mr. Pell and Sir Cecil had not been playing leading roles on the commission, their departure from it would not now seem so significant. But in view of their importance, and whether they are right or not, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that something fundamentally serious has upset the whole United Nations program to translate into action past inter-Allied declarations—notably the Roosevelt-Churchill-Stalin statement of November, 1943—to bring Axis criminals to justice in the very countries where they have worked their crimes. Mr. Grew says that United States policy is "definite, forthright and comprehensive," but Mr. Pell, who has been close to the subject, apparently does not think so, and if American authorities differ among themselves and if British authorities differ among themselves also, there is more than a little reason to wonder how America, Britain, Russia and the other Allies will be able to work out any joint approach to the problem.

The task of the War Crimes Commission, under the best of conditions, cannot be anything less than extremely difficult and complex, involving the grading of evidence and the working out of legal procedures against an army of individuals charged with abominable deeds on a vast scale. But as matters stand today, in face of the disagreements revealed by Mr. Pell and Sir Cecil, the task is probably more difficult and complex than ever, so much so that it is a question whether the commission itself will be able to survive its inner divisions.

There thus seems to be a real danger that unless the situation receives prompt attention in the highest Allied councils, war criminals will escape again this time just as they did after 1918.

The Soldier Ballots

Secretary Stimson's report on the use of absentee ballots by service men and women, while expressing dissatisfaction with some complexities of the present law, indicates that the President was very wide of the mark when, a year ago, he told Congress that the soldier vote bill was a "fraud" on our fighting men and on the American people.

Severely criticizing the State ballots and the voting procedure set up in 1942, Mr. Roosevelt said it would be no less difficult for soldiers to vote under the 1944 law. Perhaps he was right, but the fact is that, difficult or not, about 2,800,000 service ballots were cast in the 1944 presidential race. In 1942 the service vote was negligible, some estimates placing it at less than one-half of 1 per cent of those eligible to vote.

Mr. Stimson said that he had no "authentic" figures for the total number of State absentee ballots and Federal ballots cast last year. It is interesting to note his assertion, however, that in ten States which approved the Federal ballot and reported to the Army, 28,136, or 2.2 per cent, of the eligible persons used the Federal ballot, while 446,974, or 34.6 per cent, used the State absentee ballots.

That would indicate that the State ballots were not as objectionable to the troops as some of the pre-election partisans would have had the country believe. No doubt these partisans were convinced that the service vote would be preponderantly for the President (it was about 3 to 2 in his favor) and feared that any difficulty in voting might prejudice his election. Now that the campaign is over and the verdict in, their more extreme complaints against the voting law can be dismissed. Some valid criticisms remain, however, as indicated by Mr. Stimson, and appropriate steps should be taken to meet them before 1946, in the unhappy event that we should still be at war when the elections of that year are held.

Well, anyhow, if Mr. Wallace becomes Secretary of Commerce, either with or without trimmings, he will be the greatest Secretary of Commerce since Jesse Jones.

This and That

By Charles E. Tracewell.

"CHEVY CHASE, Md.

"Dear Sir:

"Can't we please have a column on 'Signs of Spring?'

"I know that the recent weather hasn't been very springlike, but the days are getting longer, and yesterday, walking over to market, I saw a pussywillow bush just ready to burst forth.

"And when may we look for that first robin?

"Very truly yours, K. S. S."

* * * *

"ARLINGTON, Va.

"Dear Sir:

"The ground may be covered with snow this morning, but am I right in believing that spring is really on the way?

"For yesterday a pair of bluebirds came to our feeding ground.

"Early in November we ran a feeding tray out from one of the dining room windows, sprinkling food also on the ground as a lure toward the tray.

"A wooded glen beside the house held birds, we knew, but while the ground was bare they refused our hospitality. Then came the ice and snow, and on December 29 we had the joy of watching juncos, blue jays and cardinals feeding beneath our windows.

"One female cardinal braved the tray, but to date she's the only bird we've seen up there. But since the food disappears from the tray, there have probably been others.

"On January 10 a female downy woodpecker spent a busy few minutes on the ground beneath our windows while her mate worked away on a nearby icy twig.

"And now that our feathered friends have found us, seats at our window provide endless entertainment. They arrive so early in the morning that we've been putting out their breakfast before we go to bed. The snow had covered it this morning, but there were the juncos waiting and knowing I'd put out more.

"Will we see bluebirds today? We enjoy your interesting column, especially when you write about birds.

"Very truly yours, D. S."

* * * *

Robins begin to arrive usually in February.

Once we had one on Valentine Day and another year on George Washington's Birthday.

Over in the woods in and around Washington a few robins stay all winter, and half a dozen of these were seen by observers on December 31, last.

This is a good time to lay in a stock of raisins for these favorite birds.

On their arrival, usually in snow, they look so forlorn that the thought of the beholder is, "What can I give them to eat?"

Raisins, tossed on the lawn, is the best thing. They also like bread softened in water or milk. Cake is good! And boiled spaghetti, lying wormlike on the grass, intrigues them.

Purple finches and fox sparrows are due to arrive shortly.

Fox sparrows are large and brown, and are vigorous scratchers, a sure sign by which to know them.

The purple finch is the bird which some have described as having been dipped in pokeberry juice.

It is one of the most brilliant and beautiful of our birds. They are not with us long, but while here usually will come to feeding stations.

Sometimes they are mistaken for young cardinals, just as occasionally the fox sparrows are mistaken for wood thrushes.

One of the best and surest signs of spring is the arrival of the annual seed catalogs.

With covers bright with huge tomatoes and marigolds, these publications are the very breath of spring, bearing in their pages everything that makes the coming season what it is, despite wars, floods and human stupidity.

Letters to The Star

Pictures Union Station Parade of All the World's People

To the Editor of The Star:

At the Union Station, most any time
All going some place—where?

A stenographer, a colonel, a mother and a couple of children, a Chinese officer (his rank is hard to tell), a private with his bag, probably on furlough; a second lieutenant, looking newly commissioned; a WAVE, a WAC, a SPAR, a couple of wounded soldiers from the Pacific, a general, a little gray-haired lady much afraid, a seaman first class.

Stop—a newly arrived train with a big party, one person surrounded by a lot of important looking persons and secretaries, who also are surrounded by more important and official looking persons. They move quickly away and nobody sees much of them.

An anxious wife trying to locate an expected husband, a couple of MP's, calm and self-assured; a Canadian CWAC with a British WREN, a blind man, a Coast Guardsman, a chief petty officer, a Marine with a line of service ribbons, a couple of race track touts talking of the money they had won, a British officer with his swagger stick.

A salesman with his briefcase, perhaps containing an order for military necessities; a chaplain, commutors to Baltimore, Philadelphia, etc., mostly Government employes who can't find places to rent in Washington; a statesman, groups of soldiers with their overseas packs, cadet nurses.

Soldiers with their wives, sailors with their wives, Marines with their wives—and many of them with babies.

An Australian soldier, a British sailor, a sweetheart going to see her friend at one of the camps, a Red Cross nurse, a corporal, many civilians on pleasure trips, a Merchant Marine seaman, a proud-looking ensign.

There goes a two-stripe admiral, some more civilians back from Florida looking nicely tanned, a wounded sailor, a Marine captain talking to some women Marines, a group of young ladies on their way back to college after vacation at home, a USO unit going places to entertain, a smart ROTC cadet, an Army nurse with a Navy nurse, more wounded veterans, a Canadian sailor talking French with a French soldier, a three-star general anxiously looking for someone, a businessman, a New Zealand soldier, some Government female clerks.

A colored soldier with his wife and child, a soldier from the Netherland Indies, a Polish officer, a couple of Chinese ladies in split skirts, a Brazilian officer, a farmer, a Norwegian sailor, a couple of railroad men and women, two MP's with two prisoners of war, a Sea Bee, a paratrooper proud of his branch.

The crowd continues—who are they all? The gates open.

All going some place—where?

S. E. JOHNSON.

The Liquor Industry's Rating

To the Editor of The Star:

As I listened with millions of other American citizens to the President's fourth inauguration ceremony, I took heart at the thought that we as a nation, represented by our President, still looked to Almighty God for guidance and protection. Prayer opened and closed the ceremonies and the oath of office was taken with one hand upon the Holy Bible. This Nation, I thought, still believed in the Word of God and the biblical precept that "righteousness exalteth a nation."

But the following day I attended church only to learn that the brewing of beer and liquor and the delivery of such beverages are rated by the Government as more essential to the war effort than the work of spreading the Gospel. The dispensing of poison for both soul and body is considered more essential than the dispensing of truth, light and salvation for the soul. What kind of hypocrisy have we in the high places of our Government? Can it be that the revenue derived from the brewing industries has some influence on the rating given them? If so, then our Government is surely selling its soul for a "mess of pottage." Unless the Word of God is given a higher rating at the peace table than industrialism, we cannot hope for a peace any more lasting than the last one.

WILLIAM F. GREEN.

Differs With Mr. Brown

To the Editor of The Star:

I wish to call the attention of your readers to three mistakes in the column "This Changing World," by Constantine Brown, which appeared in the January 30 issue of The Star.

1. Mr. Brown calls Manchuria a border state of Siberia under Japanese tutelage. As a matter of fact, the word Manchuria is commonly used to denote the three Chinese provinces of Liaoning, Kirin and Heilungkiang, which forcefully were taken away from China by Japan in 1931. A puppet government was established there completely controlled by the Japanese. The failure of the League of Nations to stop this aggression greatly encouraged Mussolini and Hitler and the so-called Mukden incident of September 18, 1931, therefore, generally is regarded as the actual beginning of World War II. These Chinese provinces, to quote Owen Lattimore, "were as much an integral part of China as any other part, and will be again." The return of these provinces to China was solemnly pledged by the historic Cairo Conference of President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

2. Port Arthur is not a port of Korea. The assertion is as wrong as to say that Baltimore is a port of Guatemala.

3. Sinkiang Province is a province of China in the northwest. It now is under the governorship of Gen. Wu Chung-shin, who was appointed by the Chinese government at Chungking. There is no Communist government in Sinkiang. Ambassador Hurley never visited Sinkiang. He visited Yenan in North Shensi, which is as far from Tihwa, the capital of Sinkiang, as New York City is from Denver, Colo. Two huge provinces, Ninghsia and Kansu, stand between Shensi and Sinkiang, and the Great Wall of China runs between them.

CHEN CHIH-MAI,
Counselor of the Chinese Embassy.

Favoritism

From the Topeka Capital.

Obviously the President is reluctant to get tough with the Musicians' Federation. He couldn't possibly clear anything like that with Sidney Hillman. But the American people are eagerly watching to see what does happen. They are concerned over the favoritism their Government shows to certain groups while using every possible legal and extralegal means to beat private enterprise into the ground.

This Changing World

By Constantine Brown

American battle squadrons and task fleets under the overall command of Admiral Chester Nimitz are roaming the Western Pacific at will, disrupting the Japanese lines of communications with the rich islands in the south and preventing reinforcements from being sent to the Philippines and other areas threatened by the American land forces.

Under pressure of the military in Tokyo, the Imperial Navy is expected soon to be forced to make a suicide attack against the American naval forces. The Japanese generals have been complaining for some time that the navy, once the pride of Japan, has done nothing to support the far-flung posts the army set up early in the war as an "unbreakable barrier" against any American force coming from the east.

The entire grand strategy of the Tokyo leaders has been based on the full and complete co-operation with the navy, which at one time had complete control of the Pacific sea lanes. Since the air "accident" which caused the death of Japan's ablest naval officer, Admiral Yamamoto, the Japanese fleet assumed a purely defensive strategy and has missed some golden opportunities.

The Japanese commanders, realizing that the replacement facilities of their yards were not equal to America's, have sent old and slow battleships and cruisers to meet the reborn American Navy, with disastrous results. Now the American superiority in ships of all types, from modern 42,000-ton battleships to submarines and destroyers, is so great that the naval strategists have been looking for a mistake due to overconfidence on the part of the American high command to engage some isolated American detachments with their entire force. They failed both in the Saipan and Sulu Sea battles.

* * * *

Now again the Japanese fleet is looking for a chance to meet the American squadrons which have come too close to Japan's lifeline for comfort. There have been recent indications that the bulk of the remaining Japanese Navy, under the pressure from home, will risk a suicidal attempt to prevent our ships from completely cutting off the lines of communications with the south. It is from the south that Japan gets vital raw materials.

In the meantime, the Japanese forces on Luzon are preparing for a long resistance.

Some time before the American landings, the Japs stripped Luzon of everything that was movable. They transferred to Bataan all the food and medicines they could lay their hands on. Thus today the Japs, from the point of view of supplies, are far better off than the American-Filipino army was in 1942. With the support of the aviation in Formosa the Tokyo military leaders expect to offer a stubborn resistance to Gen. MacArthur even after the capture of Manila.

* * * *

The German disasters in Europe have led the chiefs of staffs in Washington to revise their estimates regarding the duration of the war across the Atlantic. While they are not yet ready to say that the German resistance will be broken in a short time, they are more optimistic than they were in December and January.

Neither Gen. Marshall nor Admiral King at that time had any definite idea as to when the Russians would start their offensive on the eastern front. And after the setbacks suffered by the American 1st Army on the western front, it was thought that Gen. MacArthur's forces would have to get along with fewer reinforcements of men and supplies. The armies in Europe had to be reorganized and properly reinforced to enable them to resume their offensive and thus they had to receive triple priority.

Now that the situation in Europe has changed since the Russian offensive, a more liberal allotment will be available for the ground and air forces in the Pacific. This will enable the MacArthur-Nimitz team to open operations which might have been delayed had the European situation not improved.

The Political Mill

By Gould Lincoln

Democrats who do not want Henry A. Wallace for their party's presidential nominee in 1948 do not now want him for Secretary of Commerce, with or without the RFC. They view Mr. Wallace's effort to win confirmation of his nomination—and the effort of his chief backer, the CIO's PAC—as part of a campaign for the presidential nomination. They have not forgotten the drive which Sidney Hillman, head of the PAC, and Philip Murray, president of the CIO, put on for Mr. Wallace's renomination as Vice President in the Chicago Democratic National Convention. And they have in mind the demand for a Wallace presidential nomination in 1948 made during the more recent CIO convention.

In consequence, Mr. Wallace looms as a wedge, splitting the Democratic party. It is not merely a split between the Democrats of the South and the rest of the party. In the Chicago national convention last summer, lined up against a Wallace renomination for Vice President were the bosses of several of the big-city Democratic machines—particularly Mayor Kelly of Chicago, Edward J. Flynn of New York, and Mayor Frank Hague of Jersey City, not to mention Robert E. Hannegan, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, who had been boss of the Democratic city machine in St. Louis. These leaders and the Democrats whom they represent have no more love for Mr. Wallace than they had six months ago.

* * * *

Furthermore, Mr. Wallace's present candidacy for Secretary of Commerce epitomizes, to his opponents in the party, a drive for greater control by the Political Action Committee of the CIO—which has set itself up as a permanent political agency and which has shouldered aside the regular Democratic organization in a number of cities and States.

The outcome of the struggle in the Senate over the Wallace nomination, therefore, may have wide political repercussions. If he is defeated completely—denied the secretaryship of the Department of Commerce under any conditions—he will be out of public office, unless Mr. Roosevelt finds another place for him which Mr. Wallace is willing to accept. One school of thought is that this would "make a martyr" of the former Vice President and thereby aid him politically. Another believes that if he is defeated in this quest to head a government agency which may be charged with postwar employment and business readjustment, he will fade out of the picture as a national political figure.

Mr. Wallace did not lose caste politically—with the great mass of so-called liberals—by reason of his defeat in Chicago. After this defeat—which was in reality a bitter blow to him personally—he went to work for the re-election of the President in a big way. This kept him strongly in the limelight. But a second defeat—this time at the hands of the Senate—might have a different result. Not only would it be a rebuff for Mr. Wallace but also for the CIO.

* * * *

The antagonism of the more conservative Democrats to Mr. Wallace really goes back to the President himself. They have never felt themselves strong enough for a real revolt against Mr. Roosevelt. Furthermore, many of them have ridden to victory time after time on the coattails of the President. They have no such debt to Mr. Wallace. They consider him fair game. They have seen him unable to add political strength to the Democratic ticket even in the Midwest State from which he hails. Prediction is made by some of these more conservative Democrats that if the party does nominate Mr. Wallace for President in 1948 there will be a revolt, particularly in the Southern States, that will spell disaster for the Democratic ticket.

Mrs. Roosevelt has stepped out in the interest of Mr. Wallace's confirmation as Secretary of Commerce, with the RFC attached. The President sent a letter to the Wallace dinner in New York, highly praising the former Vice President. He has appointed Mr. Wallace to the particular place in his cabinet that Mr. Wallace requested. It looks as though the Roosevelt influence was entirely with Wallace. On the other hand, there stands that letter which the President wrote to Jesse Jones, asking the latter to stand aside so that he might pay a political debt to Mr. Wallace. If the President had tried, he could not have written a more damning epistle. It is reminiscent of the "faint praise" letter he wrote about Wallace at the time of the national convention.

It has been said the President never expected this letter to Jones to be published. The fact is, however, that Jones gave the White House an opportunity to ask that the correspondence between himself and the President be not made public, and the White House made no move in the matter. He notified the White House he intended to give the letters out—and then waited an hour and a half before doing so.

'Distance From Berlin'

By Maj. George Fielding Eliot

Every headline is informing the public of the latest rumor (coming chiefly from German sources) of the distance of the Russian advance guards from Berlin. It is exciting to read the diminishing figures. It is amusing to recount the story of the nine-year-old Texas schoolboy who rushed into the house to ask his mother where the last radio report placed the Russians.

"Seventy-four miles from Berlin," said Mama.

"Aw! They were that far an hour ago!" sniffed Junior.

But sober analysis of the situation suggests a certain reserve as to these excursions and alarums.

If Marshal Zhukov, commanding the Russian army group which is closest to the German capital, is actually pressing westward toward Berlin with his armored and motorized elements at the rate of advance which the enemy radio ascribes to him, then it is because he is satisfied that the whole German defense system in Eastern Germany is on the point of collapse and can be broken up altogether with a few more good blows and a little boldness. But of this disintegration, it must be said, there is no sign elsewhere.

* * * *

Certain facts must be kept in mind.

First, Zhukov is one of the ablest senior officers in the Russian Army. He is not impetuous, but rather cool and inclined to caution. Like most Russian Army and army group commanders, he makes war along classic lines. He does not "throw away the book." And he knows from long experience how dangerously resourceful an opponent the Wehrmacht can be.

Second, Zhukov is operating, as far as his forces now actually in Pomerania and Brandenburg provinces are concerned, under considerable difficulties because of the fact that well behind his front the important railway centers of Poznan and Torun still are held by German garrisons. This impedes the full flow of supplies which the Russian marshal might otherwise enjoy, and it hampers him in the use of the large masses of infantry and guns which are essential for a decision against a stoutly resisting enemy who is intrenched in depth. Like the cavalry of old the racing armored forces of today can win decisive victories on a large scale only against a weak, a disorganized or a disheartened foe.

Third, Zhukov at the points of his westward penetration is out at the apex of a long triangular salient, pointed at Berlin. The flanks of this salient, reaching all the way up to Danzig and the Vistula fortresses on the north, and all the way down to Breslau on the south, are held by the Germans, and they have not yet been broken down. This is a situation in which the classic move is for the Russians to make their main efforts northwest and southwest, to widen the salient, break down its flanks, and thus secure a wide, firm base for further advance westward.

Therefore if Zhukov, in these circumstances, continues westward it is because he is not worried about his flanks.

It is because he is quite confident that Rokossovsky on his right rear, and Konev on his left rear, can take care of any German pressure that may seek to cut his central forces off.

* * * *

It is a reasonably good guess that if Zhukov is taken care of on his northern flank, he will not worry too much about the southern part of the area in which he is operating. What would really worry him would be a double attack on both shoulders of his rather narrow salient. If the German situation in Pomerania can be so broken down that the Germans cannot gather a strong force between Stettin and Danzig for a major counterdrive in a southeasterly direction, Zhukov will be reasonably secure. Pomerania might yet become another East Prussia, with its garrison cut off and backed up against the Baltic. It all depends on how strong the German army in Pomerania may be right now.

With Zhukov's capture of Landsberg, 69 miles east of Berlin and 55 miles southeast of Stettin, the Russian marshal is but 20-odd miles east of the fortress of Kustrin on the middle Oder. Kustrin is the eastern rampart of the Reich capital. We shall know a good deal about the Russian estimate of the situation by observing whether Zhukov now keeps going toward Kustrin and Berlin, or swings northwest toward Stettin to cut off the province of Pomerania.

(Herald Tribune Syndicate.)

Jap Moves in China Seen Prolonging War

Air Power Alone Won't Bring Victory to U. S., Says Writer

By David Lawrence

With most of America's attention focussed on the Russian advance in Europe, few people realize that the war in the Far East contains some bad aspects for the United States.

News that the Japanese have succeeded in capturing control of the Canton-Hankow railroad, thus cutting China in two, is the culmination of a tragic defeat suffered by the Allies.

For the average American doesn't look at the map often and he doesn't see that while the United States Navy and a considerable proportion of our ground troops under Gen. MacArthur are being kept occupied 1,800 miles from Japan, the Japanese are arranging for defenses on the Asiatic mainland which could conceivably prolong the war for many years.

The American people are being led to believe once more that air power can defeat Japan. But just as Prime Minister Churchill and others in high places abroad stimulated the belief that air power could bring Germany to her knees, only to discover that big land armies were necessary, so in the Far East the capture of the Philippines and the seizure of important island bases is adding up to a mistaken impression widely conveyed that victory over Japan is not far distant.

Gen. Stilwell Knows.

Gen. Joseph Stilwell, who knows China about as well as any American and who has been given the job of training our ground forces, is under no illusions about the need for huge land armies to fight Japan on Asiatic mainland. Many vital factories and sources of supply have been established by the Japanese in Manchuria and in various parts of China. The Japanese have a tremendous supply of manpower available, and it will be necessary for an Allied army of possibly 2,500,000 men, well equipped and motorized, to be deployed in China before final victory is assured.

Chinese manpower is available if America furnishes the equipment. Russian manpower may become available if Russia denounces her treaty with Japan which expires in April, 1946. Harry Hopkins has just been quoted in Rome as saying that America is proceeding in the Far East on the assumption that Russian help will not be available. This is a safe way to plan, but it is confidently hoped that Russian help will nevertheless be joined with ours.

For the task of defeating Japan on land is one that the United States cannot expect to do alone unless three or four years are added to the customary estimates as to the time needed for victory. The British can supply more naval power, but that is not so necessary. What is needed is infantry, artillery, tanks and all the supplies that go with a big land army.

Can Open Supply Lines.

The American Navy is quite capable of opening up supply lines to the north of the Philippines, and, with the British Navy's help in the South China Sea, can cut off the Japanese sources of supply in the Netherlands East Indies and blockade Japan itself. But the big necessity is for infantry, and unless 1,000,000 or more troops now fighting in Europe are, after brief furloughs, to be shipped to the Far East to fight in China, there must be some other source of manpower. Apparently dependence must be placed on China and her manpower or else later on Russia.

The Japanese today are getting control of strategic highways and railways which can materially increase our difficulties and prolong the war. The vast air power available from Europe will need big bases. These must be obtained on the China coast close enough to Japan for fighter planes to be used to escort our bombers.

American sea power has won control of the seas close to China and Japan. The Army Air Forces, following this up splendidly, have clinched possession of the bases and the B-29s are doing a heroic job of harassing factories on Japan itself. But the main job has not yet been begun—the job of winning ports in China for a huge Allied land army to enter so as to join up with Chinese manpower yet to be trained.

No Doctor Available

From the Ottawa Journal.

Last week end an Ottawa man holding a good salaried position died without medical attention. His family physician was out of town and despite many telephone calls made by relatives, no medical man could be reached who was able to respond to the call. We all know that Ottawa's doctors are hard-worked—probably in many cases overworked. We also know that the armed forces have drawn heavily on the medical profession, and for the moment we do not question their needs. But the Canadian civilian has some claim to medical services, too. Canada has many medical and public health organizations in cities and in the provincial and federal fields. Some of them should be able to draw up plans to meet the public's immediate needs. Possibly some sort of panel could be set up for nights and week ends—like a panel of doctors for duty in public wards of hospitals. Or, medical associations might arrange among their memberships that a certain number be available for emergency calls—as pharmacists do on Sundays.

Thunder in the Night

A vixen, barking on a distant hill,
Wakens the echoes, and in my secret heart
I fare forth through the early dark—
Not as one intent upon the kill,
But seeking the freedom of the windy night,
The quiet wariness of woods
Where wild things pass on hidden trails
Beneath dim radiance. The stars are bright,
The scudding clouds race south
Driven by wind that flows, like water,
Down across their flanks. I lift my head
To sniff the air; my mouth
Drinks, in great draughts, its cool, refreshing boon;
My thoughts race onward, leaping far ahead,
Belling me on, like shadowy hounds
That course the hills and bay the sickle moon.
And there is sudden thunder in the night
Where browsing deer, on pointed silvered hooves,
Leap through the underbrush and out
Across a ledge, in startled flight.

CORNELIA B. FURBISH.